[Sir Archibald Campbell] [21st February 1934

Rajahmundry bridge and the Dowleshweram anicut owing to retrenchment. The results of the retrenchment have been very serious as we now see and I feel the engineers were fully justified in taking what measures they could to overcome the unwise economies in the past.

"As regards the rates of water-cess in the Mettur area in Tanjore district the hon. Member seems to think that the Government had not taken into consideration the present low prices. I can assure the hon. Member that we have very carefully considered this point and will also consider it when the question of the permanent reduction in the water-rates owing to reduction in the cast of the Mettur Project is taken into consideration. We have already provided in the rules which have been published for considerable reduction in the water-cess during this year and next year. The rates, generally speaking, are one-third of what we might call the standard rates for Mettur this year. These are subject to the general suspension of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on account of the present economic situation. Up to the end of December 1933 the new area under cultivation amounted to 29,560 acres against the forecast of 32,000 for the first crop. The second crop amounted to 2,000 acres in addition. I think, Sir, it may be said that we have done very well this year considering the low prices and the opposition that was organized against the scheme. As regards the future we have asked the Board of Revenue to submit definite recommendations as to the rates of water-cess which should be charged in the next two faslis and directed that they should give very careful consideration to the prevailing prices. I may mention that I had a conference at Mettur myself last October on this question and it was then very carefully considered with special reference to low prices."

Mr. BASEER AHMED SAYEED:—"If it is the wish of the Hon. the Finance Member and the Hon. the Revenue Member and since I think the general belief is that the purpose of this amendment has been served I may not press the amendment."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

The Hon. the Finance Member's motion was put and carried.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now adjourn and meet again on Friday the 23rd at 11 a.m."

V.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

[a] 1. *G.O. No.* 400, *L. & M., dated* 22*nd January* 1934, *extending the term of members of certain panchayats.*

[b] 2. *G.O. No.* 33, *Development, dated* 9*th January* 1934, *recording the Audit Report on the Accounts of the Government Industrial Engineering Workshops, Madras.*

[c] 3. *G.O. No.* 61 *I., dated* 6*th January* 1934, *abandoning the Mellavagu project, Guntur.*

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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[a] Published in the *Fort St. George Gazette.*
[b] Printed separately.
[c] Printed as Appendix VIII on pages 114–115 infra.